



RECONSTRUCTION WEEKLY UPDATE

February 3, 2005



Packages of relief supplies are distributed to internally displaced families in northern Iraq.

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USAID assists Iraqis in reconstructing their country by working with Iraq’s Interim Government. Programs are implemented in coordination with the United Nations, country partners, nongovernmental organizations and private sector partners.

This report highlights USAID’s overall accomplishments and recent reconstruction efforts in Iraq. For more information, please visit www.usaid.gov/iraq.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- By October, 2003, rehabilitated electric power capacity to produce peak capacity greater than the pre-war level of 4,400 MW. Production reached 5,365 MW on August 18, 2004.
- Since achieving record power production in Summer '04, the Ministry of Electricity—with assistance from USAID—has begun the standard Fall maintenance process which will necessarily reduce the amount of power available for consumption. USAID worked with the MOE to conduct last Fall's maintenance program.
- Repairing thermal units, replacing turbines, rehabilitating the power distribution network, and installing and restoring generators.
- USAID has added 535 MW of capacity through maintenance and rehabilitation work, and also repaired a 400 KV transmission line.
- USAID and the Ministry of Electricity are working with partners to add a total of more than 1,281 MW to the national grid by December 2005 through maintenance, rehabilitation, and new generation projects.
- USAID completed a project to convert two units that produce 80 MW each to operate on crude/heavy fuel oil instead of diesel which is in short supply.
- Most recently, USAID has initiated a project to rehabilitate 13 existing substations and construct 24 new substations in Baghdad. These 37 substations will improve the distribution and reliability of electricity for more than two million Baghdad residents.

USAID's goals include the emergency repair or rehabilitation of power generation facilities and electrical grids. Teams of engineers from the Ministry of Electricity, USAID and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have been working since May of 2003 to restore the capacity of Iraq's power system.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

Work to rehabilitate heat exchangers and water treatment systems is now complete at two of four thermal power plants in Basrah Governorate. The work is essential for the continued delivery of electricity in the area. The heat exchangers were in a state of severe disrepair with outdated, inadequate, or improvised parts, and were limiting plant output. At the largest thermal plant, a war-damaged water treatment plant was kept marginally operational by the ingenuity plant technicians.

The rehabilitation of the water treatment units is also critical for the plants' operation, as they allow the production of high-quality boiler water for thermal plants and cooling of water for combustion turbine plants. Long-term use of poor quality water can result in permanent equipment damage, power outages from down-time, and costly repairs. Sub-standard service water and cooling water for combustion turbine systems has similar consequences. This will improve the reliability of electrical generation and extend the life of the plants, and efficiency gains will at 20 megawatts to Basrah's electrical grid. This project is scheduled to be complete in March 2005.

Work at one of the two remaining plants continues, including: building enclosures, pump installation, pump pads, filtered water tanks, and erection of a third clarified water tank. At the other plant, sidewalls for desalinated and intermediate storage water tanks are complete. Reverse-osmosis control cables are being connected to main panels at both plants.



Ongoing work at a Basrah thermal power plant.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- **Nationwide:** Repaired various sewage lift stations and water treatment units.
- **Baghdad:** Expanding one water treatment plant and constructing another to increase capacity by approximately 70 million gallons per day; rehabilitating sewage treatment plants.
 - A major wastewater treatment plant in Baghdad began operating in June of 2004; this is the first major sewage plant in the country to operate in over 12 years.
 - The sewage treatment system in Baghdad, barely functioning for years before the conflict, will be restored to almost 100-percent capacity, serving 80 percent of Baghdad's population.
 - Standby generators are being installed at 41 Baghdad water facilities.
- **South:** Rehabilitating parts of the Sweet Water Canal system, including repairing breaches, cleaning the main reservoir, and refurbishing 14 water treatment plants around Basrah serving 1.75 million people.
- **South Central:** Rehabilitating two water plants and four sewage plants.
 - Completed the rehabilitation of a sewage plant in Babil Governorate.
 - Sewage plants in An Najaf, Al Qadisiyah, Karbala, and Babil Governorates will serve 440,000 upon completion.
 - Water treatment in Najaf and Babil will serve residents and visitors at Iraq's holiest shrines.
- **North:** Rehabilitating two water plants and one sewage plant near Mosul and Kirkuk.

USAID's goal is to improve the efficiency and reliability of existing water and wastewater treatment facilities, especially those in the south where water quantity and quality are particularly low. An anticipated 11.8 million Iraqis will benefit from USAID's \$600 million in water and sanitation projects.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

Work has begun to expand and refurbish a water treatment plant in Karbala that has long experienced structural failures. Before the repairs began, compact water treatment units were installed nearby to allow continued water service while the rehabilitation moves forward. Repairing this plant is particularly important because, in addition to providing clean water to Karbala residents the plants supplies potable water to an estimated three million religious pilgrims to the Al-Hussein Shrine in Karbala each year.

Because of its high total suspended solids, the alum- and chlorine-dosing processes were overloaded and sand filter function was impaired. Besides producing a poor-quality, highly turbid water, suspended solids combined with chlorine thus reducing free chlorine available to disinfect the water. Marginal disinfection was effective with most bacteria, but hardened cysts of *Giardi lamblia* and *Cryptosporidium* survived disinfection. These pathogens cause amoebic dysentery, a public health risk exacerbated by Karbala's seasonal three million-person pilgrimage.

Compact clarifier units will be installed adjacent to the existing clarifiers, allowing for rehabilitation of the existing plant. Each unit has a flow capacity of 400 cubic meters per hour. The existing inlet works and associated pump station will also be enlarged. Workers at the site are re-routing pipe, disassembling a pump at the low lift station, and compacting and placing concrete for equipment pads. This project is scheduled for completion in September 2005.

Work is continuing on the rehabilitation of Baghdad's Rustimiyah wastewater treatment plant. The plant is one of three major wastewater treatment plants serving nearly 80 percent of the capital city's residents. The three plants' treatment capacity steadily eroded under years of neglect prior to liberation and was further impacted by looting after the 2003 conflict. Prior to the rehabilitation of one branch of the Kerkh treatment plant in June 2004, none of Baghdad's sewage was being treated.

Recently, new electrical motors were installed in Stage 1 aeration tanks and tests were completed on the Stage 2 sludge return pumps at the Rustimiyah plant. In addition, knife valves and actuators were installed at the Stage 2 pump station and submersible pumps and penstocks were installed in distribution chambers. When finished in March 2005, this and the two other Baghdad sewage treatment plants will help to safeguard public health and protect the Tigris River from further contamination by raw sewage.



Rustimiyah wastewater treatment plant

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- Flights have been arriving and departing Baghdad International Airport since July 2003. BIAP is processing an average of 45 non-military arrivals and departures daily.
- Completed emergency infrastructure work at BIAP for civil air operations, including repairing Terminal C and administration offices and installing VSAT communications systems and adding power generators.
- Completed work to prepare Al Basrah International Airport for commercial operations, including installing VSAT and radio communications; runway, taxiway, and apron striping; and installing baggage x-ray units and a perimeter fence. Work to rehabilitate the water and wastewater treatment facilities are almost complete.

USAID's goal is to provide material and personnel for the repair of airport facilities, rehabilitate airport terminals, facilitate humanitarian and commercial flights, and assist the Iraqi Airport Commission Authority.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

Work to refurbish the Air Traffic Control (ATC) Center and Tower at Baghdad International Airport (BIAP) is 96 percent complete and should be fully complete in February 2005. Like much of Iraq's essential infrastructure, the airport's ATC Center had deteriorated due to a lack of preventative maintenance over several decades. The ATC facility consists of a four-story operations center and an eleven-story control tower located north of the main airport terminal complex. The ATC Center's communications system – which provided a link between BIAP, other airports, and aircraft in the vicinity – was destroyed during the conflict. The communications link was rehabilitated and is now fully operative.

This job order covers repair and refurbishment of both the ATC tower and the administration building at BIAP. Remaining work includes overhauling the ATC center's lighting and electrical system, HVAC system, and elevators in order to provide an adequate operations center for commercial air transportation. Finally, a Baghdad-based glass supplier is delivering replacement glass for the control tower within the next three weeks.

USAID's work at BIAP began in May 2003. Initial work focused on emergency repairs, such as the installation of a 5MW generator, to allow the immediate re-opening of the airport by July 2003. USAID also repaired the airport terminal and administration offices, installed communication systems, rehabilitated customs offices, and repaired passenger support facilities.



Eleven-story Air Traffic Control Tower at BIAP.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- Worked with the Ministry of Finance to introduce the new Iraqi dinar.
- Created more than 77,000 public works jobs through the National Employment Program.
- Provided technical assistance on accounting, budgeting and lending activities at Iraq's commercial banks.
- Improved statistical analysis, monetary policymaking, and bank supervision procedures at Iraq's Central Bank.
- Provided technical assistance for CPA's \$21 million micro-credit program.
- Provided technical assistance for the Oil for Food transition to prepare Iraqi ministries to assume responsibility for OFF contracts.
- Evaluated and updated commercial laws on private sector and foreign investment.
- Assisted in developing the reconstruction levy in collaboration with the CPA and the UK Customs Service; this levy imposes a five percent tariff on imports to Iraq.
- Developed a government-wide IT strategy to support the automation of planning, budgeting and reporting processes across ministries.
- Provided technical assistance as well as information on contracting opportunities for Iraqi businesses through business centers.
- Provided technical support for the re-opening of the Iraq Stock Exchange after it was closed down for more than 15 months; 3.6 billion Iraqi dinars (\$2.4 million USD) in shares were traded in the first day.

USAID supports sustainable economic reforms in Iraq including examining and reforming laws, regulations, and institutions and providing a framework for private sector trade, commerce, and investment. The reforms will strengthen the Central Bank and the Ministries of Finance, Trade, Commerce and Industry—among others.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

Advisors from USAID's Private Sector Development II program (PSD II) are continuing activities to promote trade and open markets in Iraq.

PSD II advisors are working closely with government officials and private sector representatives on a range of activities to help Iraq meet World Trade Organization (WTO) entry requirements. Recent activities include:

WTO Conformity Assessments. PSD II advisors completed a trade-related intellectual property (TRIPS) conformity assessment report for patents, industrial designs, integrated circuits, undisclosed information, and plant variety. PSD II staff are now working to complete proposals on TRIPS enforcement and to integrate these recommendations into the report.

Identifying Reform Steps. The PSD II team is continuing work on identifying steps and reforms as part of an effort to develop a WTO Accession Roadmap for Iraq. Iraqi government counterparts and PSD II advisors have set the goal of achieving WTO accession in 2007.

Building Iraqi Government Capacity. On January 12, PSD II conducted a three-hour workshop for the staff of the Ministry of Trade's WTO Unit and International Relations Department. All 12 staff members attended, as did the Head of the International Relations Department. The workshop focused on the process of WTO accession.

Work is continuing on programs to promote the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSME) in Iraq. During the past weeks, PSD II advisors have continued their survey of Iraqi banks – including their latest financial statements, assessments of their liquidity, and assessments of their interest in participating in PSD II lending programs. Based on the data collected, PSD II advisors have identified two banks to begin Phase I of the lending program. PSD II staff also provided two microfinance training programs (five days each) in Amman from January 15th through 19th for bank loan officers. Recently, PSD II staff completed a plan for an offsite assessment of the current laws governing MSME lending in Iraq. This assessment will provide policy-makers with the necessary information to implement positive reform in this sector.

Advisors from USAID's Iraq Economic Governance II (IEG II) program and representatives of state-owned banks are continuing to cooperate on bank restructuring and reform. Staff from the Rafidain and Rasheed Banks – Iraq's two largest state-owned banks – took part in IEG II training events in Amman, Jordan and Beirut, Lebanon. The two-week training program, completed January 20, brought 116 Iraqi bankers from the two state-owned banks together for six courses implemented by four bank training institutes. The training sessions covered a broad range of topics related to overall sectoral liberalization, automation of processes, recovering bad loans, and reducing exposure to bad loans.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- **Summer and Winter Crop Technology Demonstrations:** These demonstrations are introducing farmers to new technologies and techniques through extension field days.
- **Animal Health:** Several veterinary clinics in Kirkuk, Fallujah, and other cities are being renovated and a grant has been made for dipping tanks to improve sheep health and wool.
- **Technology Support:** The Ministry of Agriculture and a major university's schools of Agriculture and Veterinary Science have been awarded grants to furnish and equip computer centers, improving research capabilities and consulting capacity.
- **Date Palm Propagation:** In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, 40,000 elite date palm offshoots are being used to establish mother orchards in 13 governorates as part of a multiplication program and the establishment of a national register of elite varieties.
- **Agriculture Sector Transition Plan:** This plan, completed in mid-April, addresses the short-term recovery of agricultural infrastructure as well as medium and long-term implementation of policies to develop a market-based agricultural economy.

USAID's goals are to work in conjunction with Iraqi ministries, the private sector, and higher education institutions to revitalize agricultural production, stimulate income and employment generation, nurture rural initiatives, and rehabilitate the natural resource base.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

USAID's Agricultural Reconstruction and Development Program for Iraq (ARDI) is continuing work on a broad range of activities designed to increase agricultural production, generate employment and raise incomes in Iraq's agriculture sector. Recent progress has included:

Wheat extension programs: All 56 wheat extension demonstration sites in northern Iraq have been planted. ARDI/Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) technical teams throughout the three governorates of Arbil, As Sulaymaniyah and Dahuk are now monitoring progress. The sites are introducing and demonstrating the value of improved wheat seeds.

Date palm program expansion: ARDI and MOA staff members are working toward signing a letter of agreement for a significant expansion of the date palm program, which helps farmers cultivate dates for export. Since last year, MOA and ARDI have established 18 date palm nurseries in 13 governorates to propagate offshoots for distribution to farmers and to preserve the valuable genetic resources embodied in Iraq's more than 600 varieties of dates. The program, currently in the planning stages, will expand on the previous work, with an emphasis on the highest-value Iraqi dates.

Agricultural machinery rehabilitation program: ARDI and the organization the Modern Iraqi Company Trading Agencies (MICTA) have begun collecting information on inoperable tractors and combine harvesters. The data collection and analysis will determine the total rehabilitation needs in terms of spare parts and labor required. The goal of the program is to make a large portion of Iraq's tractor fleet operational again.

Veterinary clinics: MOA/ARDI conducted a joint program to rehabilitate veterinary clinics throughout Iraq. ARDI is at present working on 21 clinics administered by the MOA/Baghdad and has identified six more. This program supports MOA/ARDI's overall goal of improving animal health in Iraq. To date, ARDI has renovated 12 veterinary clinics, helping to improve the health of livestock, which are a vital part of many Iraqis' income.

Vaccination program in Muthanna: MOA/ARDI is planning a large vaccination campaign against brucellosis in Muthanna Governorate. In cooperation with Dutch Civil Affairs, MOA/ARDI will hire unemployed veterinarians in the governorate to vaccinate approximately 2 million sheep and goats against the livestock disease. This pilot program will help safeguard the health of Iraqi herders' livestock.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

• Facilities

- Awarded 627 grants worth more than \$6 million to rehabilitate schools and equip Directorates General.
- Rehabilitated 2,405 schools countrywide.

• Supplies

- Distributed desks, chairs, cabinets, chalkboards, and kits for primary and secondary schools countrywide.
- Printed and distributed 8.7 million revised math and science textbooks to grades 1-12 by mid-February 2004.

• Institutional Strengthening

- Completed a major initiative that trained nearly 33,000 secondary school teachers and administrators, including 860 master trainers, nationwide.
- Conducted a pilot accelerated learning program in five Iraqi cities to allow out-of-school children to complete two school years in one year. More than 550 students participated.
- Assisted the Ministry in establishing official baseline education data for Iraq.

• Higher Education

- Awarded five grants worth \$20.7 million to create partnerships between U.S. and Iraqi universities. Through these partnerships, Iraqi universities are rebuilding infrastructure; re-equipping university facilities; participating in international conferences; attending workshops and refresher courses; and reforming curriculum.

USAID's goals are to increase enrollment, improve the quality of primary and secondary education, ensure classrooms have sufficient supplies, facilitate community involvement, train teachers, implement accelerated learning programs, and establish partnerships between U.S. and Iraqi colleges and universities.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

With funding from USAID, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is implementing a comprehensive package of activities designed to help Iraq meet Millennium Development Goals in public health, sanitation and education. In the education sector, UNICEF's activities are focused on ensuring that Iraqi children stay in school, providing safe and effective learning environments, and supporting education reform. As part of its efforts to support the MOE in education reforms, UNICEF updated findings from a national school survey last year; an analytical report on this survey (Volume II) was recently completed and submitted to the MOE for final approval. Out of 18,000 on order, 12,945 sports and recreational kits for primary and intermediate schools were delivered to the MOE as part of a joint UNICEF/MOE initiative.

The first of four remaining shipments of Secondary School Student Kits has arrived at Umm Qasr seaport. The remaining three shipments are expected to arrive before the middle of February. The kits will be delivered to

Maysan	43 schools	6870 kits
Qadisiyah	39 schools	15462 kits
Muthanna	20 schools	3624 kits

Education Ministries in the following governorates:

Under the second year of programming for the improvement of basic education in Iraq, a USAID partner NGO is distributing kits to Iraq's secondary school students. More than 525,000 students in 1,656 schools will receive kits to provide them with the basic supplies for learning. This initiative is being coordinated through Iraq's Ministry of Education.

The kits are bookbags that contain pencils, pens, notebooks, a calculator, a ruler, a compass and protractor.



Nearly 13,000 sports and recreation kits were recently distributed to Iraqi schools.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS
TO DATE

- Vaccinated over 3 million children under five and 700,000 pregnant women with vaccination campaigns that included monthly immunization days.
- Provided supplementary doses of vitamin A for more than 600,000 children under two and 1.5 million lactating mothers.
- Provided iron folate supplements for over 1.6 million women of childbearing age.
- Screened more than 1.3 million children under five for malnutrition.
- Distributed high protein biscuits to more than 450,000 children and 200,000 pregnant and nursing mothers.
- Provided potable water for 400,000 persons each day in Basrah city and 170,000 persons in Kirkuk and Mosul.
- Provided skills training for 2,500 primary health care providers and 700 physicians.
- Trained 2,000 health educators, teachers, religious leaders and youth to mobilize communities on hygiene, diarrhea, breastfeeding, nutrition and immunization issues.
- Disseminated information on essential health messages to families around the country.
- Renovated 110 primary health care centers.
- Provided vaccines and cold chain equipment to selected health centers.
- Developed a national plan for the fortification of wheat flour with iron and folic acid.

USAID's goals include supporting a reformed Iraqi Ministry of Health, delivering essential health services, funding vaccines and high protein biscuits for pregnant and nursing mothers and malnourished children, providing basic primary health care equipment and supplies, training and upgrading health staff, providing health education and information, and identify the specific needs of the health sector and of vulnerable populations such as women and children.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

The restoration of facilities that will house three Environmental Health Education and Resource Centers is nearly complete. Center coordinators are awaiting the arrival of equipment and books. The Centers are being restored through USAID's Higher Education and Development program (HEAD), and will be managed by Iraqi universities in the north, center, and south of Iraq. This project is part of a cooperative effort between five Iraqi Universities and the State University of New York (SUNY/Stony Brook). The consortium is working to improve faculty training, curriculum and facilities for the study of Archaeology, Assyriology and Environmental Health.

Each region of Iraq is afflicted with unique environmental problems. Air pollution is a serious issue in the northern and central regions, while in the southern region the most critical issue is water pollution and depleted uranium contamination. The three centers will develop regional strategies for implementing environmental cleanup activities. Governmental agencies will have access to Center resources including the internet and online databases.

Using the resources they have received from the HEAD program and in collaboration with SUNY scientists, each Center will identify and prioritize contaminated areas affected by chemicals, organic pollutants or depleted uranium. The centers will provide advice to the Iraqi Ministry of Environment in designing a cleanup plan and implementing safety and preventative regulations to protect the environment in the future.

All research will be performed by Iraqis using Center resources, and SUNY will continue to provide technical support and assist in sampling and interpreting the results. The data obtained through research activities will be used by graduate students and professors to improve future research methods and help minimize the effect of pollution on the Iraqi people.

Staff Training. The Centers will act as training centers for environmental health professionals in Iraq, and for graduate and undergraduate students who have an interest in environmental health and science. Each Center will be supplied with a library including scientific books on environmental health as well as periodicals.

Community Education. The Centers will provide community education in environmental pollution, designing curricula in coordination with Iraqi environmental organizations. The outreach program will include lectures, community discussions, and mass media messaging through radio and television.

Mini-grants. The Centers will also provide mini-grants to Iraqi scientists for activities in environmental health and research. Each Center will review proposals in coordination with a SUNY committee to select grant recipients.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- Established regional offices in Al Basrah, Al Hillah, Baghdad, and Mosul and operations in all governorates.
- Awarded \$15.5 million in rapid-response grants in the first program year to strengthen the capacity of municipal authorities to deliver core municipal services. The grants were used to restore services in agriculture, education, health, electricity, sanitation, and water.
- Facilitated the establishment and refreshment of 16 governorate councils, 90 district councils, 194 city or sub-district councils, and 445 neighborhood councils.
- Organized and facilitated numerous selection processes for governors and mayors, as well as local council members, throughout Iraq.
- Committed more than \$2.4 million for the nationwide Civic Education Campaign, which educates Iraqis on democracy and Iraq's political situation. More than 28,500 democracy dialogues have been conducted to date.
- Supported preparation of 2004 city council budgets in Baghdad, Mosul, Al Hillah, Babil, and An Najaf.
- Supporting a series of National Agenda Dialogue Conferences, which engage stakeholders such as academics, journalists, women, tribal leaders, and local government officials in discussions on their roles in Iraq's emerging democracy.

USAID's goals in the Democracy and Governance sector include promoting representative citizen participation in governance at the national and sub-national level; supporting the administration of transparent and credible electoral processes; strengthening the management skills of national, city, and provincial administrations and civic institutions; promoting advocacy and participation of civil society organizations; enhancing leadership skills; and serving as a recruiting tool for future leaders.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

In the contentious Salah Ad Din governorate, USAID's Local Governance Program (LGP) held a series of Community Council Liaison Activities during early January. The Activities represent the implementation phase of LGP's earlier Democracy Dialogue Activities which were conducted in all 18 governorates to stimulate civic participation and give Iraqis a forum to express their opinions and ask questions about the democratic process. The objectives of the Community Council Liaison Activities are to activate the role of councils and increase citizen participation in the decision-making process.

Community Councils are encouraged to adopt measures to ensure transparency and efficiency in their work with citizen education conferences, public meetings, and training sessions. Council liaison officers have been appointed to each district and sub-district council to help facilitate cooperation between the citizenry and public officials.

Community Council Liaison Activities are organized around six themes:

- Responsibilities of the citizenry
- Rule of law
- National reconciliation
- Conflict resolution
- Transparency
- Elections.

Community Council Liaison Activities recently included:

The Tuz District Council of Salah Ad Din Governorate focused on unemployment in their community.

The Al Dor District Council recognizes the need to build an elementary school for village children.

Citizens of the Al Balad District Council have recently demanded the dismissal of their representative.

The Al Mu'tasim Subdistrict Council is addressing shortages of drinking water in their community and the transport of children to their schools.

The Samara District Council is addressing deteriorating education standards, textbook shortages in schools.

In Al Dujail District, the Community Council is working to increase the participation of women in the elections and the political process.

The Tikrit District Council is addressing shortages of fuel and electricity in their community.

- USAID has awarded a cooperative agreement to the Consortium for Election and Political Processes Strengthening (CEPPS) which includes three US NGOs. This agreement has a \$50 million ceiling, of which \$23 million has been obligated to date. Within this electoral processes grant USAID seeks to achieve the following:
 - Educate voters and promote participation in the electoral process
 - Build the capacity of Iraqi election monitoring organizations
 - Support efforts to monitor and mitigate electoral conflict.
- USAID also awarded a \$40 million cooperative agreement to an NGO to support the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq's (IECI) administration of the transitional election cycle, which includes the January 2005 elections, the October 2005 Constitutional Referendum, and the December 2005 National Assembly Elections. This program is being implemented at the request of the IECI and in direct coordination with UN activities.
- For more information on the elections, please visit the website of the Iraqi Election Information Network, www.iraqiein.org/english. EIN is an NGO coordinating elections support across Iraq.

Consistent with USAID's policy with regard to supporting elections, USAID activities in Iraq make a good faith effort to assist all political organizations with equitable levels of assistance, do not seek to determine election outcomes, and support representative multiparty systems.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

On January 30, 2005, the Iraqi people went to the polls for the national election, the 18 provincial elections, and the Kurdistan Regional government election, proving that Iraqis want to exercise their democratic rights even in the fact of violence and intimidation. All indications are that voter turnout exceeded expectations.

Transitional National Assembly

Votes are still being counted. Based on final tallies, a 275-member Transitional National Assembly (TNA) will be elected with the goal of having at least 25 percent female representation. The TNA will:

- Serve as Iraq's national legislature for a transition period.
- Name a Presidency Council, consisting of a President and two Vice Presidents. The Presidency Council will, by unanimous agreement, appoint a Prime Minister and approve the selection of cabinet ministers.
- Draft Iraq's new constitution, which will be presented to the Iraqi people for their approval in a national referendum in October 2005. Elections based on this constitution are then to be held in December 2005 to choose a constitutional Iraqi government.

The role of the United States and the Coalition was limited and consisted primarily of providing financial support for the cost of the mechanics of the election as well as some technical assistance through NGOs. The United States provided more than \$40 million in technical and commodities assistance to help the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq conduct elections. Japan pledged \$40 million and the EU pledged \$38 million for the election effort.

In preparation for the elections, USAID supported several Iraqi civil society organizations in their efforts to encourage Iraqis of all backgrounds to go to the polls in the upcoming elections.

In early January, a non-partisan coalition of 76 civic organizations from across Iraq, developed projects all over the country as part of their media campaign. The ongoing projects include distribution of informational pamphlets on the elections, posters, and trainings motivating Iraqis to vote even in rural areas. The coalition also produced two TV spots that featured a Sunni cleric and a Shia cleric to target potential voters from their communities to encourage them to take part in the elections.

Prior to the elections, USAID NGO partners finished training thousands of elections monitors. Over 220 core election monitors – which USAID's partners have been training since November with some collaboration with the European Union – in turn trained as many as 12,000 domestic monitors.

The Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq reported that as of January 26, approximately 55,000 domestic elections monitors and political party monitors had been accredited to date, including those trained through the USAID-supported process.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- Rehabilitated 105 water treatment units and 396 kilometers of water networks to ensure the provision of potable water in critical areas.
- Rehabilitated 72 health facilities and re-equipped 238 to improve the quality of health care.
- Vaccinated over 3,000 women and children against measles.
- Registered internally displaced persons and provided them with water, blankets, medical kits, and hygiene kits.
- Rehabilitated a water treatment plant in a poor area of Baghdad. The rehab is benefiting 1 million residents.

In the first year of programming, USAID's humanitarian assistance focused on emergency interventions to prevent food and water shortages and provide adequate shelter and medical supplies throughout Iraq. USAID is now directing humanitarian assistance efforts through the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) to specifically target Iraq's internally displaced people (IDP), primarily in northern Iraq, but also in two southern governorates.

HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

USAID is directing humanitarian assistance efforts through the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) to specifically target Iraq's internally displaced people (IDP), primarily in northern Iraq, but also in two southern governorates.

Distribution of Livelihood Assets Packages

In one region of At' Tamim governorate, a USAID partner NGO has doubled the number of families that are receiving Livelihood Assets Packages from 50 to 100 per day. To date, USAID/OFDA has distributed packages to more than 1,000 families in this area. The total value of the materials that will be distributed through January is \$450,000.

In Diyala governorate, local partner NGOs have distributed more than 600 packages, and several hundred more will be distributed in coming weeks. Distribution efforts in Diyala will increase after the January 30 elections. The content of the packages varies according to the needs of the IDPs, but may include items such as blankets, towels, cooking equipment, a radio, containers for water, a kerosene heater, soap and detergent, or a small stove.

Kerosene Distribution

Fuel supplies are currently one of the biggest problems in Iraq, and many IDP families are weathering a cold winter in military camps and tents. The distribution of kerosene is helping reduce the tension between IDP families. In Diyala governorate USAID/OFDA has distributed 1,750 barrels of kerosene; several hundred more will be distributed in the coming weeks. Rising kerosene prices are affecting supply in some areas.



Distribution of Livelihood Packages.

Since the cessation of the 2003 conflict, USAID has completed planned work at Umm Qasr Seaport and restored significant portions of Iraq's telecommunications network. USAID also helped avert a humanitarian crisis during the conflict by providing assistance to the United Nations' World Food Program. USAID advisors continue to assist with the management and distribution of food rations for all Iraqi citizens.

SEAPORT

- USAID's \$45 million programs to rehabilitate and improve management at the port were completed in June 2004.
- Port reopened to commercial traffic on June 17 2003; completed first passenger vessel test July 16.
- Up to 50 ships offload at the port every month.
- Completed dredging to open all 21 berths to deep-draft ships; maintenance dredging is ongoing.
- Applied port tariffs on June 20, 2003.
- Renovated the grain-receiving facility to process 600 MT of grain an hour.
- Renovated the administration building, passenger terminal, customs hall, and electrical substations.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- Audited more than 1,200 km of the fiber optic backbone network and performed emergency repairs, re-connecting 20 cities and 70% of the population.
- Reconstituted Baghdad area phone service by installing switches with 240,000 lines at 12 sites.
- Installed 13 new switches, and fully integrated them with the 14 existing switches.
- Ministry of Communications reactivated more than 215,000 subscriber lines.
- Installed a satellite gateway system at Baghdad's largest telecom exchange and restored international service.
- Trained ITPC engineers and technicians in the operation and maintenance of the satellite gateway system and the new switches.

FOOD SECURITY

- Worked directly with the World Food Program (WFP) and Coalition Forces to re-establish the Public Distribution System (PDS) in less than 30 days, avoiding a humanitarian food crisis and providing food security throughout the country.
- With Iraqi food distributors, Food for Peace, the WFP, and Coalition Forces maintained deliveries from June through December 2003 in all 18 governorates.
- Played a key role in an agreement between the WFP, CPA, and the MoT that provided the WFP with the resources and authority to continue to support the PDS through June 2004.
- In partnership with the United States Embassy in Iraq, providing on-going support to the Public Distribution System Working Group to assist the Ministry of Trade with improving PDS management.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

February 3, 2005

FY 2003-2005*			
Implementing Partner	Sector	Regions	Obligation
Reconstruction USAID/ANE			Subtotal: \$3,818,356,906
Abt Associates	Health	Countrywide	\$23,031,886
AFCAP	Logistics	Countrywide	\$91,500,000
Army Corps of Engineers	Architecture and Engineering Services	Countrywide	\$31,328,264
BearingPoint	Economic Governance	Countrywide	\$79,583,885
BearingPoint	Economic Governance II	Countrywide	\$103,500,000
Louis Berger Group	Vocational Education	Countrywide	\$27,200,000
Louis Berger Group	Private Sector Development II	Countrywide	\$60,000,000
Bechtel National	Airports, buildings, emergency communications, power, railroads, roads and bridges, Umm Qasr seaport, water and sanitation	Countrywide	\$1,029,833,259
Bechtel National	Infrastructure II: Airports, buildings, emergency communications, power, railroads, roads and bridges, Umm Qasr seaport, water and sanitation, Basra Hospital	Countrywide	\$1,386,809,782
Community Action Program	Development in impoverished communities	Countrywide	\$165,830,000
DAI	Marshlands	Dhi Qar Al Basr Maysan	\$4,000,000
DAI	Agriculture	Countrywide	\$101,352,912
Fed Source	Personnel Support	Countrywide	\$300,000
IRG	Reconstruction Support	Countrywide	\$51,698,152
RTI	Local Governance	Countrywide	\$236,911,000
America's Development Foundation	Civil Society	Countrywide	\$42,880,157
CAII	Education	Countrywide	\$56,503,000
CAII	Education II	Countrywide	\$51,809,000
CEPPS	Iraq Governing Council	Countrywide	\$675,000

* Figures in funding sheet are subject to change and do not represent a final official accounting of USG obligations.

** For accounting purposes, funding for this activity has been obligated by OFDA under an existing interagency agreement.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

February 3, 2005

FY 2003-2004			
Implementing Partner	Sector	Regions	Obligation
CEPPS	Transitional Government	Countrywide	\$20,700,000
CEPPS	Voter Education, Domestic Observation and Conflict Resolution	Countrywide	\$47,175,000
CEPPS	Elections Administration Support	Countrywide	\$40,000,000
UNICEF	Health, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$36,700,000
UNICEF	Education	Countrywide	\$19,600,000
UNESCO	Textbook Printing & Distribution: Math & Science	Countrywide	\$10,000,000
WHO	Strengthen Health System	Countrywide	\$10,000,000
SSA	Port Management	Um Qasr	\$14,318,985
SkyLink	Airport Management	Baghdad, Al Basrah, Mosul	\$27,200,000
MSI	Monitoring and Evaluation	Countrywide	\$5,038,772
University Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Research Foundation of the State University of New York/Stony Brook and the Universities of Chicago, Boston and Oxford • The Human Rights Institute, DePaul University College of Law and Italy's International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences • University of Hawaii, the International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas, University of Jordan and the American University in Beirut • Jackson State University, Tougaloo College, Alcorn State University, Mississippi Valley State University, University of Mississippi Medical Center, Benetech, US-Iraq Business Resources • University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University, Cameron University and Langston University 	Countrywide	\$20,730,000
Yankee Group	Telecoms Planning	Countrywide	\$58,150
VEGA	Business Skills Training	Countrywide	\$12,089,702
UNDP	Trust Fund Contribution	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
World Bank	Trust Fund Contribution	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
Emergency Relief USAID/DCHA/OFDA.....			Subtotal: \$156,075,669
Administrative	Administrative Costs	Countrywide	\$7,962,416
AirServ	Logistics	Countrywide	\$5,309,876
ARC	Capacity Building	Al Basrah	\$537,746
CARE	IDP Assistance, Quick-impact projects, Water and Sanitation, Health, Emergency Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$9,043,148
The Cuny Center	Research Studies	Countrywide	\$40,260
GOAL	Coordination, Nutrition	Al Muthanna	\$1,507,900

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

February 3, 2005

FY 2003-2004			
Implementing Partner	Sector	Regions	Obligation
InterAction	Coordination	Kuwait City	\$92,860
IDA	Health	Countrywide	\$1,318,437
IMC	Health, IDP Assistance, Food Security, Nutrition, Water and Sanitation, Capacity Building	Countrywide	\$28,952,898
IOM	IDP Assistance	Countrywide	\$16,392,470
IRC	IDP Assistance, Health, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$8,000,411
Logistics	Emergency Relief Commodities and USAID/DART Support	Countrywide	\$22,553,653
Mercy Corps	IDP Assistance, Health, Emergency Relief Commodities, Shelter, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$19,199,786
SCF/US	Food Security, Health, IDP Assistance, Shelter, Nutrition, Emergency Relief Commodities, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$7,074,652
UNICEF	Health, Nutrition, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$4,000,000
OCHA	Coordination and Information	Countrywide	\$1,200,000
USAID/Jordan	Support for Emergency Water Activities	Countrywide	\$500,000
WFP	Food Security, Logistics	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
World Vision	Health, Logistics, Emergency Relief Commodities, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$6,793,739
USAID/DCHA/FFP.....			Subtotal: \$425,571,000
WFP	Operations	Countrywide	\$45,000,000
WFP	Emerson Trust—81,500 MT	Countrywide	\$40,337,000
WFP	P.L. 48– Title II emergency food commodities—163,820 MT	Countrywide	\$140,234,000
WFP	Regional Purchase—330,000MT	Countrywide	\$200,000,000
USAID/DCHA/OTI.....			Subtotal: \$371,959,969
Administrative	Administrative Costs	Countrywide	\$10,002,513
IOM	Iraq Transition Initiative	Countrywide	\$6,462,167
DAI	Iraq Transition Initiative	Countrywide	\$344,500,376
Internews	Media	Countrywide	\$160,359
Radio SAWA	Media	Countrywide	\$400,000
NDI/IRI	National Governance	Countrywide	\$650,000
IFES	National Governance	Countrywide	\$1,042,315
ICNL	Civil Society	Countrywide	\$39,238
Spa War**	Inter-Ministry Communications	Countrywide	\$8,703,001
TOTAL USAID ASSISTANCE TO IRAQ FROM 2003-2005.....			\$4,696,133,409